

COUNTY OF ORANGE
PUBLIC FACILITIES & RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY:
FIELD INSPECTION AND DOCUMENTATION MANUAL**

Procedures For Identifying Illegal Discharges
and Illicit Connections To The Storm Drain System

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(Revision to January 1991)

VICKI L. WILSON
Director

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CHARLES V. SMITH
First District

TODD SPITZER
Third District

JAMES W. SILVA
Second District

CYNTHIA P. COAD
Fourth District

THOMAS W. WILSON
Fifth District

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Attachment 1: Field Inspection Log

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Clean Water Act of 1987 required municipalities to apply for NPDES permits for controlling urban stormwater runoff. The First Term Permits included requirements for:

- Field inspection and documentation of drainage systems
- Detection procedures for illegal discharges/illicit connections
- Ordinances prohibiting illegal discharges/illicit connections
- An implementation plan for prosecuting violators and eliminating illegal discharges

The facility inspection and documentation manual was prepared by the Principal Permittee in cooperation with the Permittees.

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act (California State Law) authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board through its Regional Boards to enforce the Federal Clean Water Act and regulate stormwater discharges.

This manual was prepared in order to comply with the NPDES Permit requirements. The purpose of the manual is twofold:

- To assist in the identification and elimination of illegal discharges and illicit connections; and
- To document the storm drain systems.

The manual serves as a guideline to ensure consistency between Permittees. Each Permittee is responsible for inspecting and documenting their drainage facilities.

2.0 INSPECTION PROCEDURES

All open and underground drainage facilities (39 inches and larger) under the jurisdiction of the Permittee will be inspected to identify pollutant discharges and to regulate undocumented and illegal drainage entries into said facilities.

2.1 Inspection Frequencies

The First Term Permits required all open storm drains, retention basins and other above ground facilities to be inspected on an annual basis. Underground storm drains with diameters of 39 inches or greater to be inspected bi-annually.

The Second Term Permit required the Permittees to certify the completion of the reconnaissance of the storm drain system by February 28, 1997, and, in instances where illicit connections are detected, a schedule be provided for their elimination (DAMP Section 10.2). The Reconnaissance Survey Report of February, 1997, reported finding two illicit connections countywide and inspection of drainage facilities is now conducted as part of routine maintenance.

2.2 Documenting Facility Inspections

The following items are required for facility inspection documentation:

1. Each facility inspected will be documented by filling out a Field Inspection Log (Attachment 1), or its equivalent.
2. Inspectors will be responsible for filling out log sheets, updating maps and completing reports.
3. All new stormwater discharges to the municipal storm drain system not shown on current maps will be transferred onto local and County drainage maps and/or submitted to the Principal Permittee. This information will be compiled and provided to the Regional Boards.
4. Updating drainage maps will be an ongoing task of each Permittee.

2.3 Illegal Discharges/Illicit Connections

The following procedures should be implemented when discovering a suspected illegal discharge or illicit connection:

1. Any illegal discharge/illicit connection discovered during inspections must be documented on the Field Log, or its equivalent, and reported to the appropriate water pollution response/enforcement agency for further investigation.
2. Any undocumented connections will be logged and forwarded to the appropriate local agency for verification of permit status.
3. Appropriate actions will be taken to approve undocumented stormwater discharge connections into the municipal storm drain system by permit procedure and/or pursue abatement of those connections that are determined to be illegal/illicit connections and not in compliance with the local agency standards.

2.4 Safety

The inspection of underground facilities will be performed in compliance with appropriate safety standards. The use of video technology is encouraged.

ATTACHMENT 1
FIELD INSPECTION LOG

Date:

Inspector:

Facility:

Type:

Reach:

Location:

Condition of Channel/Drain (include debris accumulation):

Drainage Area/Land Use:

Possible Undocumented Entry and/or Suspected Illegal Discharge

Location of Entry:

Dimensions/Type of Connection:

Type of Flow/Discharge:

Source of Connection:

Record any evidence of illegal discharge – odor, color, consistency, wildlife/vegetation affected, staining, etc:

List any nearby industries/businesses:

Source of Discharge:

Water pollution response agency notified by phone:

Date/Time:

Person Contacted:

Action Required:

Submit copy to permits to verify documentation

Submit copy for map update

Submit copy to PFRD/Environmental Resources

Facility maintenance needed

Comments: